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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/W-RMWALTER:DFF
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---------- 097273
R 232015Z OCT 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

UNCLAS STATE 233409

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CD, SOCI

SUBJECT:OCTOBER 10 KAMM ARTICLE

FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF OCT. 10 HENRY KAMM ARTICLE:

AT A COST OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS, THE UNITED STATES IS AIRLIFTING 2,000 TONS OF SORGHUM TO CHAD. HALF IS BEING FLOWN TO A REMOTE DESERT REGION THAT HAS SUFFERED ONLY MARGINALLY FROM THE GREAT AFRICAN DROUGHT AND HAS LITTLE IMMEDIATE NEED OF RELIEF.

THE GRAIN IS BEING FLOWN TO CHAD FROM MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA, 154 MILES FROM HERE, WHERE THOUSANDS OF TONS OF SORGHUM HAVE BEEN ARRIVING SINCE LAST MARCH AND THOUSANDS MORE ARE ON THEIR WAY.
- - - --
GREAT AS HER FOOD NEEDS ARE, CHAD HAS FAILED TO ABSORB AND DISTRIBUTE TO THE HUNGRY MOST OF THE SUPPLIES FURNISHED
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BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

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OF ABOUT 4,000 TONS OF AMERICAN SORGHUM REMAINING IN MAIDUGURI, AN INSPECTOR HAS FOUND 1,000 TO BE ROTTEN AND 700 INFESTED WITH BUGS.

THE EXPENSIVE AIRLIFT TO A REGION OF MARGINAL NEED AND THE BACKLOG IN MAIDUGURI WITH MORE GRAIN ON THE WAY ILLUSTRATE THE DILEMMA OF THE AMERICAN RELIEF EFFORT TO CHAD. IT IS SHARED BY THE MANY OTHER DONORS-GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE GROUPS: THE NEED IS GREAT, ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE BUT DONORS ARE POWERLESS AGAINST GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION.

TEN DAYS OF CONVERSATIONS HERE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRINCIPAL DONORS- THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE, THE UNITED NATIONS AND VARIOUS AFFILIATES, THE COMMON MARKET'S EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND AND PRIVATE GROUPS- AS WELL AS TWO FIELD TRIPS DISCLOSED REMARKABLE UNANIMITY IN ASSESSMENTS OF THE PROBLEM.

THE GOVERNMENT OF NGARTA TOMBALBAYE IS BELIEVED TO BE MISMANAGING THE RELIEF EFFORT. THE PRINCIPAL REASONS CITED ARE IMCOMPETENCE, APATHY AND PARTICIPATION IN OR TOLERATION OF PROFITEERING ON THE PART OF PERSONS CLOSE TO THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

IT IS PART OF THE DILEMMA OF THOSE ATTEMPTING TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF CHAD IS THAT IF THEY CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE THEY INCUR A HIGH RISK OF BEING BARRED FROM FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO THOSE STRICKEN BY DROUGHT AND FAMINE. CONSEQUENTLY, ALL PERSONS INTERVIEWED INSISTED ON ANONYMITY.

"WE ARE HERE TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF CHAD, GOVERNMENT OR NO GOVERNMENT," AN INTERNATIONAL OFFICIAL SAID.

ONE PRICEEXACTEDBY PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE FOR ALLOWING HIS FOUR MILLION PEOPLE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IS THAT ALL DECISIONS ARE MADE BY HIS GOVERNMENT; WHATEVER GOODS
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AND SERVICES ARE PUT AT CHAD'S DISPOSAL, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES HOW TO USE THEM.

THE AMERICAN AIRLIFT TO THE SAHARA IS AN EXAMPLE. LAST JUNE, WITH THE RAINY SEASON, WHICH MAKES MOST OF CHAD'S ROADS UNUSABLE, AT HAND, THE GOVERNMENT URGED THE DONORS TO PROVIDE AIR DELIVERY. THE UNITED STATES, MINDFUL PERHAPS OF THE LARGE STOCKS LYING USELESS IN NIGERIA AND WITH

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A DESIRE TO GIVE NO OFFENSE TO PRESSURE GROUPS AT HOME, AGREED RELUCTANTLY AND AT THE SAME TIME SAID IT WOULD CARRY ITS SORGHUM WHERE CHAD WANTED IT.

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS SURPRISED WHEN PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER ABDOULAYE NDJONOUMA, IN CHARGE OF ALL DROUGHT

RELIEF, ORDERED 1,300 OF THE 2,000 TONS TO BE DELIVERED TO NORTHERN LOCATIONS. IT WAS AWARE THAT THE 70,000 NOMAD OF THE BAHARAN REGION THERE LIVED IN PERMANENT DROUGHT AND HAVE FOR CENTURIES COPED WITHOUT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. THE EMBASSY PERSUADED THE MINISTER TO REDUCE THE ALLOCATION TO HALF THE 2,000 TONS AND PROCEEDED WITH THE AIRLIFT.

THE PREFECT, OR GOVERNOR OF THE REGION, SAID IN AN IN-TERVIEW IN HIS OASIS CAPITAL, FAYU-LARGUEA, THAT THE PEOPLE HAD HAD LESS FOOD DURING THE DROUGHT PERIOD BECAUSE LESS ARRIVED FROM THE SOUTH BUT HAD SURVIVED WITHOUT TOO MUCH HARDSHIP. NOW, HE SAID, CARAVANS ARE AGAIN ARRIVING WITH MILLET FROM THE FIRST HARVEST OF THE NEW CROP.

THE AMERICAN PLANES, A VASTLY MORE EXPENSIVE FORM OF TRANS-PORT, ARE ARRIVING AT THE SAME TIME. ABOUT 700 TONS HAVE ARRIVED SO FAR, 15 TONS AT A TIME CARRIED OVER DISTANCES OF ABOUT 1,000 MILES EACH ROUND TRIP.

THE PREFECT, BAKARY DIALLO, SAID ALL BUT 50 TONS WOULD BE STOCKED UNTIL APRIL OR MAY, WHEN THE NOMADS WILL BE RUN-NING OUT OF THE PROCEEDS OF THIS YEAR'S DATE CROP AND BE-FORE NEXT YEAR'S CAN BE MARKETED. THROUGHOUT RURAL AFRICA THE PERIOD BEFORE THE NEW HARVEST IS ONE WHEN PEO-
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PLE HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME MAKING ENDS MEET, BUT IT IS NOT CONSIDERED AN EMERGENCY.

MR. DIALLO APPEARED TO SEE NO PARADOX IN CARRYING GRAIN BY EMERGENCY AIRLIFT ONLY TO PUT IT IN STORAGE FOR SEVEN MONTHS. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY DOES BUT FEELS POWERLESS.

AID AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS HERE CAN ONLY GUESS AT THE REASONS MOTIVATING THIS SURPRISING ALLOCATION.

ONE LINE OF SPECULATION IS THAT MR. TOMBALBAYE IS SENDING AMERICAN GRAIN TO THE NORTH BECAUSE HE WANTS TO APPEASE THE NOMADS, WHO ARE OPENLY DISAFFECTED AND WHO HAVE OFTEN REBELLED AGAINST ALL GOVERNMENTS TRYING TO DOMINATE THEM. ANOTHER REASON OFFERED IS THAT GRAIN SENT SO FAR AWAY CAN

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BE DISPOSED OF WITHOUT ANYONE'S KNOWING ITS ULTIMATE USE. THIRD SPECULATION IS THAT THE GRAIN CAN BE USED TO FEED GOVERNMENT TROOPS SENT NORTH TO KEEP THE NOMADS IN CHECK.

THERE IS NO NEED TO GUESS, HOWEVER, AT THE REASON FOR

THE CONSTANT BACKLOG OF RELIEF FOOD, WHICH MADE AIRLIFTS NECESSARY LAST YEAR AS WELL AND HAS CAUSED GREAT HARDSHIP TO MANY OF THE TWO MILLION CHADIANS ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT. THE REASON IS THE GOVERNMENT FAILURE TO BREAK THE MONOPOLY OF THE CHADIAN TRUCKING INDUSTRY IN THIS LANDLOCKED COUNTRY WITHOUT RAILROADS.

THROUGHOUT THE RELIEF OPERATIONS BEGINNING LAST YEAR, THE DONORS HAVE CARRIED ON A RUNNING FIGHT WITH THE CO-OPERATIVE OF CHADIAN TRANSPORTERS, THE TRUCK MONOPOLY.

"WE HAVE THE MONOPOLY AND WE FIX THE TARIFFS," BOASTED CAMERON AGAR, A SYRIAN-BORN LEBANESE OF FRENCH CITI-ZENSHIP WHO FOUNDED THE MONOPOLY 20 YEARS AGO. THE TRUCK OWNERS USED IT TO ENFORCE THE HIGHEST TON-PER-MILE RATE IN THE WORLD AND TO KEEP THE CHEAPER, FASTER AND LARGER NIGERIAN TRUCKS FROM CARRYING GRAIN HERE WHILE CHADIANS STARVED.

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MR. AGAR SAID HE GAVE "TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION" FOR NIGERIAN TRUCKERS TO COME AS FAR AS THIS CAPITAL LAST MAY. IN AN INTERVIEW, PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER NDJOUMOUNA SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ORDERED THE LIFTING OF THE MONOPOLY.

AN INTERNATIONAL OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT "COULD NOT IMPOSE ITS WILL ON TRUCKERS," AND ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES CALLED THE TRUCKERS "A MAFIA". BUT A LEADING FIGURE IN THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY SAID THAT MOST MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAD AN INTEREST IN TRUCK OWNERSHIP THROUGH CLOSE RELATIVES, INCLUDING PRESIDENT TOMBAL-BAYE'S WIFE.

MR. NDJOMOUNA OPENED THE INTERVIEW WITH AN UNSOLICITED DECLARATION THAT MR. TOMBALBAYE OWNED NO TRUCKS AND ADDED THAT NO GOVERNMENT MEMBERS DID.

DESPITE A RAINY SEASON THAT WAS MOSTLY GOOD, CHAD'S FOOD PROBLEM REMAINS VAST. SOME AREAS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO MEDIOCRE HARVEST AT BEST.

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IN OTHERS, LITTLE WAS SOWED BECAUSE THE POPULATION WAS ON THE MOVE LOOKING FOR FOOD. IN THE DENSELY POPULATED REGION AROUND MONGOAN IN THE CENTER, GRASSHOPPERS ARE DESTROYING MUCH OF WHAT WOULD BE A GOOD HARVEST.

ABOUT 30,000 TONS OF RELIEF FOOD REMAIN DESTINED FOR CHAD OUT OF 1974 PLEDGES. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DONORS

HERE WANT VERY MUCH TO BE HOPEFUL THAT IT CAN BE GOT TO THOSE WHO NEED IT. INGERSOLL

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